

**From:** adi@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/31/01 2:05am  
**Subject:** Microsoft anti-trust settlement

U.S. Dept. of Justice,

I wish to express my whole-hearted dissatisfaction with your decision to settle your suit against Microsoft under an agreement which is severely flawed. The agreement will not solve any of the problems which brought this suit against Microsoft in the first place. In many ways it will actually help Microsoft continue its monopolistic practices.

For example, giving software to low-income schools looks like a kind-hearted gesture, but in reality it is nothing but a public-relations ploy because it actually helps Microsoft break into new markets it didn't otherwise have access to. That software they'll be donating is simply a loss leader. All Microsoft products are designed to work better (or sometimes, only work) with other Microsoft products. Those kids who learn basic computer skills on the Microsoft platform will be trapped into using it for years to come. The effect is that it will extend Microsoft's monopoly.

Let me also give you a bit of my background, to show you another reason why Microsoft is hurting the computer industry.

In 1998 I graduated from Cornell University in Computer Science. Since then I have been working for a startup venture which is building a platform-independent, standards-compliant healthcare transaction processing engine. Due to various factors the venture has had limited success. If the venture fails, I have made a decision that I will not support the Microsoft monopoly by lending them my software development talent. The main reason is that I believe Microsoft is harmful to our economy, our country, and our civilization as a whole.

I have already examined job opportunities outside the computer software/hardware field, and plan to leave the field permanently if I cannot find work which does not support the Microsoft monopoly. I simply do not want the headaches, hassles, and guilt associated with working with Microsoft technology. Microsoft technology is shoddy and weak, and the stress I'd have to put up with is not worth the higher salary it would bring me.

That's one highly skilled and talented information technology worker (in very high demand in this economy) the industry will have lost because of Microsoft. I'm sure there are many more like me.

Sincerely yours,

Adi Fairbank

Chief Architect  
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